

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 /067 W

----- 095243

R 240715Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMUSTDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

COMUSTDC FOR J-2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TW, CH

SUBJECT: LIKELY ROC REACTION TO THE RELEASED

"SPECIAL AGENTS"

REF: FBIS OKINAWA JAPAN 221326Z SEP 75,

AND FOLLOWING.

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY:

REPORT THAT THE PRC HAS DECIDED TO RELEASE 95 ARMED  
SPECIAL AGENTS AND 49 CREW MEMBERS OF "ARMED AGENT  
CARRYING VESSELS" CAPTURED BETWEEN 1962 AND 1965 HAS NOT  
YET BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS NOR HAS THERE BEEN  
ANY OFFICIAL REACTION HERE. NONETHELESS, BASED ON  
RECENT EXPERIENCE (WITH THE SO-CALLED "WAR CRIMINALS"),  
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EMBASSY BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT THE GROG WILL BE WILLING

TO ALLOW ANY OF THE "SPECIAL AGENTS" TO RETURN TO TAIWAN.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE GROC WILL SEE A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RELEASE OF THE "SPECIAL AGENTS" AND THE RELEASE OF THE "WAR CRIMINALS". WITH REGARD TO THE "WAR CRIMINALS", THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SOME GROC OFFICIALS VIEW THE GROC DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT THE TEN INTO TAIWAN AS A MISTAKE. HOWEVER, MOST GROC OFFICIALS APPARENTLY SHARE THE OPINION EXPRESSED BY ONE OFFICIAL (TO EMBOFF) THAT THE GROC HAD BEEN CONFRONTED WITH TWO BAD ALTERNATIVES -- TO REFUSE ENTRY TO THE TEN, THEREBY CREATING ANEGATIVE IMPACT INTERNATIONALLY; OR TO ACCEPT THEM, THEREBY RISKING INTERNAL PROBLEMS. BECAUSE THE GRO BELIEVED THAT INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS OUTWEIGHED ANY POTENTIALLY DAMAGING INTERNATIONAL IMPACT, ENTRY HAD BEEN DENIED TO THE TEN. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS APPARENTLY INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A DECISION TO ADMIT THE TEN COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY SOME AS THE BEGINNING OF CONTACTS WITH THE PRC.

3. PROPONENTS OF THE GROC'S DECISION TO REFUSE ENTRY TO THE TEN REPORTEDLY CITED IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CASE THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF THE GROC AGREED TO ACCEPT THEM, THE PRC WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SEND OTHER GROUPS TO TAIWAN. WHILE THE GROC COULD HANDLE TEN POSSIBLE SUBVERSIVES, HOW COULD IT HANDLE HUNDREDS?

4. IN THAT CONTEXT, THIS LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE "SPECIAL AGENTS" IS LIKELY TO BE USED BY THOSE GROC OFFICIALS WHO ARGUED AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEN AS EVIDENCE THAT THEIR SUSPICIONS WERE INDEED CORRECT. FOR THIS REASON, OPPOSITION TO PERMITTING ANY OF THE "SPECIAL AGENTS" TO RETURN TO TAIWAN IS LIKELY TO BE PERSUASIVE IN GOVERNMENT CCBUBJPNUK

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROUP OF "SPECIAL AGENTS" CAPTURED BETWEEN 1962 AND 1965 IS LIKELY TO HAVE MORE DIRECT FAMILY AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS ON TAIWAN THAN  
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DID THE "WAR CRIMINALS". IN THIS CONTEXT, THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT MANY OF THE NEW GROUP ARE IDENTIFIED AS WORKING FOR THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (IBMND) AND ARE THEREFORE LIKELY TO HAVE CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE GROC SECURITY APPARATUS. THEREFORE, THERE MAY BE SOMEWHAT GREATER PERSONAL INTEREST IN PERMITTING MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP TO RETURN TO TAIWAN.

6. THE GROG IS ALSO LIKELY TO PERCEIVE THAT THIS NEW ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE PROPAGANDA VALUE TO THE PRC OF THE "WAR CRIMINALS" HAS PRACTICALLY RUN ITS COURSE, AND THAT FAILURE TO ALLOW THE "SPECIAL AGENTS" TO RETURN, JUST AS IN THE CASE OF THE "WAR CRIMINALS", COULD HAVE AN UNDESIRABLE PROPAGANDA IMPACT ON THE GROG'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

7. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT PROBABLE THAT THE ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN APRAS TWO, THREE AND FOUR ABOVE WILL BE DECISIVE, AND THE GROG --AS BEFORE-- WILL OPT AGAINST PERMITTING ANY OF THE GROUP TO RETURN TO TAIWAN. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT THE GROG AS BEFORE WILL SEEK TO EMPLOY DELAYING TACTICS RATHER THAN TO REJECT OUTRIGHT ANY REQUESTS TO RETURN, WHILE HOPING THAT THE MATTER WILL FADE AWAY. UNGER

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